

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

After entry of this amendment, claims 1, 5, 10, and 24-27 are pending. The pending claims incorporate the Examiner's amendment referred to in the Notice of Allowance mailed September 29, 2004.

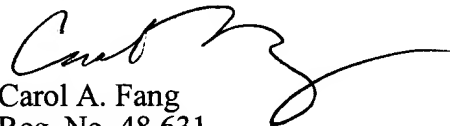
As explained in the Notice of Allowance, Applicants authorized the Examiner's amendment during a telephonic discussion of September 21, 2004 between Examiner Stucker and Applicants' representative, Carol A. Fang. The Applicants thank Examiner Stucker for his time.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,


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